Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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CONFIDENTIAL COPENHAGEN 2939

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SF DA

SUBJECT: DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS DANES WILL BREAK WITH SOUTH AFRICA IF UNSC APPROVES SANCTIONS AGAINST IT

SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN SAID THE DANES AGREE WITH THE DUTCH DECISION TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA IF UN SECURITY COUNCIL APPROVES SANCTIONS TO FORCE THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE ITS HOLD OVER NAMIBIA. END SUMMARY.

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- 1. THE DANISH PRESS SERVICE, RITZAU'S BUREAU,
 YESTERDAY AFTERNOON REPORTED FOREIGN MINISTER K.B.
 ANDERSEN'S REACTION TO THE DUTCH PRONOUNCEMENT.
 ANDERSEN WAS QUOTED AS AGREEING WITH THE DUTCH
 DECISION AND SAYING THAT DENMARK WOULD DO LIKEWISE.
 HE REPORTEDLY CALLED THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESENCE IN
 NAMIBIA "AN ACT OF VIOLENCE". HE CHARACTERIZED THE
 SOUTH AFRICAN FAILURE TO HOLD A REFERENDUM ON NAMIBIA
 BEFORE AUGUST 31 AS PROVING THAT "WE CANNOT TRUST SOUTH
 AFRICA, THAT WE CANNOT TRUST THE SOUTH AFRICAN PROMISES".
- 2. COMMENT: DENMARK AND SOUTH AFRICA MAINTAIN RELATIONS ONLY ON THE CONSULAR LEVEL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE DANISH LEGATION WAS CLOSED IN THE MID-50'S PURPORTEDLY AS AN ECONOMY MOVE AND NO DANISH DIPLOMAT HAS BEEN ACCREDITED TO PRETORIA SINCE THAT TIME. A FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE (HAAKONSEN) TOLD US THAT THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS CAME ABOUT MORE OR LESS ACCIDENTALLY. HE SAID THAT THE ABSENCE OF DANISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA IS INCONSISTENT WITH DANISH POLICY OF MAINTAINING SUCH RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALL COUNTRIES, REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL COMPLEXION OR APPARENT INTERNAL INJUSTICES. HE CITED, AS EXAMPLES, THE DANISH DIPLOMATIC TIES EXISTING WITH CHILE AND NORTH KOREA.
- 3. HAAKONSEN NOTED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA HAS BEEN DISCUSSED RECENTLY IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BUT THAT SUCH A STEP HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN BECAUSE OF THE OBVIOUS MIS-INTERPREATION THAT MIGHT BE GIVEN SUCH A MOVE.

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Message Attributes

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SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN SAID THE D

TAGS: PFOR, SF, DA

To: STATE

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